

reducing stocks at the close of the year to a lower point than at the corresponding period one year previous. The present tendency of prices is to further harden. At London first quality pine sells at £27 for 3x11, and spruce is selling to arrive at £9 for 3x9 second quality, and £8 10s. for third quality. At the recent public sales prices have been well maintained, 3x11 first pine, 11 inch and up, and 12 ft. in length, selling as high as £25 10s., and 3x11 third quality pine at £10 10s.; second quality Quebec pine brought from £10 to £14 10s., the latter figure being realized for a lot of 2x9 inch, 12 feet and up. Quebec spruce made as high as £10 15s. for first quality, and £9 10s. for a mixed lot of firsts and seconds. Fourth spruce from St. John, N.B., made £9 for 3x11, and £8 5s. for 3x7. Square pine timber sold at from 77s.6d. to 80s. per load, birch planks from Halifax, N.S., at 1s.1d. per cubic foot, and birch timber from Quebec at 87s.6d. to 97s.6d. per load.

It will be observed by a report published elsewhere that the Australian market is improving, and that better prices are likely to be realized in the near future.

#### STOCKS AND PRICES.

Thos. Boland, of Markdale, Ont., is offering \$7 to \$8 per thousand feet for hardwood logs.

A timber property at Porter's Lake, N. S., owned by Alfred McElmon, is understood to have been purchased by Alfred Dickie, of Lower Stewiacke, N.S., for \$20,000.

J. W. Munro, of Pembroke, is reported to have purchased from T. W. Murray a timber limit of 6½ square miles in Widdifield township which the latter purchased at the recent Ontario Government sale.

A Saginaw lumberman who recently visited the Georgian Bay district estimates the log input this winter at 450,000,000 feet. Of this quantity less than 50,000,000 feet will be available for the Michigan market.

There is said to be a slight weakening in the lath market. The supply has be-

come no greater, but holders of stock fear that as the spring approaches prices may recede a trifle. This has resulted in an increase in the offerings.

Geo. St. Pierre & Co., of Fraserville, Que., have sold 10,000,000 shingles to be manufactured this year. They expect to make in all 20,000,000 shingles, and have now in operation 13 machines, working night and day. This firm recently obtained a contract from the Dominion government for the construction of a pier at Cacouna, Que., at a cost of about \$6,000.

R. P. Rithet & Co., of Victoria, thus refer to the British Columbia lumber industry: The lumber industry has been unusually active, and the mills engaged in the export trade had all the orders they could handle at remunerative prices, some of the larger mills having had to keep their machinery going night and day for a large portion of the year. The volume of business has been somewhat curtailed, for some months back, by the want of tonnage, but, even with this drawback, a very satisfactory trade has been done. The prospects for the future are good; many of the mills have orders in hand to keep them going for probably half the year. Indeed, new business will hardly be entertained for earlier loading than July or August. The export price of lumber has recently been increased to a basis of \$10 per M feet.

#### NEW BRUNSWICK CEDAR SHINGLES.

There is little change to report in the cedar shingle trade. Consumption is not expected to be anything but light at this season, and orders are therefore not numerous. In regard to future prices, there is food for thought in the action of the Michigan and Wisconsin Cedar Association a few days since. This Association has held prices firmly to list in the past, and has now advanced two better grades 16 inch shingles 10c. per thousand. The Oregon, Washington Territory and British Columbia shingle products are also being held very firmly.

Stocks on hand in retail yards are only fair, the tendency of the dealers being to wait until

assured that prices will go no lower before stocking up. After another month or six weeks, during which, owing to light consumption, slow business and scanty orders must prevail, if the manufacturers should mark up prices a little, all dealers would make haste to get under cover, and a rush of orders for spring trade would result. Reports now in the hands of the writer as to the winter's operations, would seem to indicate that there is something of an increase in the number of small winter operations. On the other hand, several large manufacturers, one of them one of the largest in the business, report that their cut of logs this winter will be considerably smaller owing to inability to secure labor. Generally speaking, it would appear that all the shingles to be made in 1900 will be required for consumption, and that the prices to be realized will be fixed by the manufacturers rather than by the retailer or commission man, especially after the spring trade opens. Present Boston quotations are: Extras, \$5 to \$3.10; clears, \$2.65 to \$2.75; 2nd clears, \$2.15 to \$2.25. Extras show the slowest movement.

#### BUSINESS NOTES.

Andrew Calahan, lumber dealer, Glencoe, Ont., has assigned to C. B. Armstrong. A meeting of creditors will be held on the 26th inst.

F. D. Irvin has been admitted as partner in the firm of Irvin & Sellers, wood brokers and dealers, Liverpool, England. He is a son of David Irvin, the senior member of the firm.

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